

# FOCUS



Music ensemble 3 Leg Torso will perform with the Portland Festival Symphony on Sunday, Aug. 14 at Washington Park.

## Washington Park Concert this Sunday

Eclectic world chamber music ensemble 3 Leg Torso will join the Portland Festival Symphony on Sunday, Aug. 14 at 6 p.m. for a free, all-ages concert at the Washington Park Rose Garden Amphitheatre.

Portland-based 3 Leg Torso will begin the evening's concert by performing its signature blend of classical, tango, gypsy, Latin and jazz music. This unusual synthesis is delivered with equal parts creativity, intelligence, wit and joie de vivre.

The group will then be joined by the local symphony to play orchestrations of five of the group's original compositions.

For more information, visit the web at [www.portlandfestivalsymphony.com](http://www.portlandfestivalsymphony.com).



## James Brown Plays Bend

He's had many nicknames, including "Soul Brother Number One," "the Godfather of Soul," "the Hardest Working Man in Show Business," and "Mr. Dynamite." No one can question that James Brown has earned these monikers more than any other performer.

Brown will funk it up to an excited crowd on Tuesday, Aug. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Les Schwab Amphitheater in Bend.

Few other musicians have been so influential on the course of popular music than Brown, and

no other musician puts on a more exciting, exhilarating stage show.

Through the gospel-impasioned fury of his vocals and the complex polyrhythms of his beats, Brown was a crucial midwife in two revolutions in American black music. He was one of the figures most responsible for turning R&B into soul and he was the figure most responsible for turning soul music into the funk of the late '60s and early '70s.

The concert is all ages, and tickets, ranging from \$35 to \$75, are available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## Multiple Sclerosis Blessing in Disguise for Richard Pryor

(AP) - Instead of packed arenas, comedian Richard Pryor now tours medical clinics. Instead of applause, he gets eight checkups a month in what his wife jokingly calls "the round robin of doctors."

Still, Jennifer Lee Pryor says her husband's crippling multiple sclerosis is a blessing that stripped away his taste for the drugs and alcohol she was convinced would have left him dead. Today, he's just months shy of his 65th birthday.

Nearly two decades with the disease has left Pryor in a wheelchair and out of the public eye, long after his expletive-laced standup act spawned dozens of movies and made the Peoria native box office magic through much of the late 1970s and early '80s.

Now, Pryor - who has also suffered three heart attacks - spends most of his time at his home near Encino, Calif., with two rescued dogs and Jennifer, his fifth wife.



Comedian Richard Pryor escorted by his daughters Rain (left) and Elizabeth in 1998 at the Kennedy Center in Washington. (AP Photo)

The couple divorced after a brief marriage in the early 1980s but remarried in 2001.

Entertainers from Bob Newhart to Chris Rock cite Pryor as one of the most influential comedians ever.

"As productive and brilliant as he was, he was also self-destructive," she said in a telephone interview. "He said God gave him MS to slow him down. This disease saved his life."

## Nominated for Detroit City Council Motown's Reeves hopes to revamp downtown

(AP) - Martha Reeves says the Motown Sound was all about love during the 1960s, when she was the lead singer of Martha and the Vandellas and belting out hits like "Dancing in the Street" and "Heat Wave." Reeves, 64, felt the love Tuesday when Detroit voters nominated her for the City Council.

The top 18 vote-getters earned slots on November's ballot, and she finished ninth with 27,313 votes. Nine City Council members will be elected in the fall.

"People love me everywhere. On an unofficial level, I'm an ambassador and a civil servant for Detroit. Now I'm going for the official title," Reeves said.

"I could've been in L.A. and forgot about all this stuff. I could sell my property, move to Las Vegas and just play the slot machines. Why should I be bothered? Because I love Detroit. We have an obligation to



Martha Reeves

Reeves said her top priority is improving police protection for the city's neighborhoods. She said thugs have prevented her from fixing up some of the 18 old buildings she has acquired since 1999.

hold onto its history."

Reeves still travels and performs and has her own record label and production company. She said she plans to go into the studio later this week to record a gospel CD.

To spruce up the struggling city's downtown and boost tourism, she is proposing a shopping mall, a nightclub devoted to Motown's legendary sound, and a landscape dotted with tributes to the record label's biggest stars.

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